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## DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

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INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-08 L-04 NSAE-00  
 NSC-10 P-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-20 USIA-12 AID-28 IO-16  
 EUR-20 RSR-01 ACDA-19 /175 W

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R 261705Z JUN 71  
 FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2713  
 AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
 INFO USCINCSO

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ CARACAS 3511

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

SUBJECT: COLOMBIA/VENEZUELA: ROME TALKS

REF: BOGOTA 3922

WITH REGARD TO STATEMENT IN PARA 4 REFTEL THAT QUOTE VENEZUELA STILL HOLDS TO HISTORIC BAY APPROACH UNQUOTE, WE ARE NOT AWARE VENEZUELA HAS SPECIFICALLY PUT FORTH CLAIM TO GULF AS "HISTORIC BAY." AS POINTED OUT IN AMBASSADOR'S MAY 13 LETTER TO DEPARTMENT'S LEGAL ADVISER, COPY TO BOGOTA, OUR INFORMATION HAS BEEN THAT WHILE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENTS OVER THE YEARS HAVE REPEATEDLY HELD THAT BY TRADITION, HISTORY AND GEOPOLITICS GULF IS VENEZUELAN, CARACAS HAS NOT AND, WE ARE HOPEFUL, WILL NOT CLAIM IT AS "HISTORIC BAY." REASON IS THAT LEGAL EXPERTS IN BOTH MAJOR PARTIES HERE ARE REPORTEDLY AWARE SUCH A FORMAL CLAIM IS PROBABLY UNTENABLE IN INTERNATIONAL LAW. CARACAS A-222 PROVIDED MORE DETAILS. FACT THAT CHAIRMAN OF HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE IN MAY 13 DISCUSSION THIS SUBJECT WITH NORTH COAST AFFAIRS DIRECTOR LITTLE DID NOT REFER TO GULF AS "HISTORIC BAY" ALSO INDICATES VENEZUELAN ARE NOT RELYING ON THIS LEGAL CONCEPT.

MCCLINTOCK

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